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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/659,453	09/11/2000	Dr. Bernhard Kaiser	Q60663	5829
7590	12/01/2003		EXAMINER	
Sughrue Mion Zinn Macpeak & Seas PLLC 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, DC 20037-3213			TRAN, QUOC DUC	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2643	7

DATE MAILED: 12/01/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/659,453	KAISER, DR. BERNHARD
	Examiner Quoc D Tran	Art Unit 2643

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

**A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
 THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.**

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 August 2003.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 18 August 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/659,453.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
 - a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____ .
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

2. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Krank et al (6,002,755).

The applied reference has a common assignee with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention “by another,” or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

Consider claim 1, Krank et al teach a process for signaling cost information in a telecommunications network (*see abstract*), wherein the process comprises: establishing a connection between a subscriber's data terminal and an exchange, forwarding a tariff request for

a to-be-completed telephone call or an on-going telephone call from a call handling function resident in the exchange to a tariff server, receiving a tariff response at the call handling function at the exchange from the tariff server for the requested connection, forwarding the tariff response from the call handling function to a CDR generating function in the exchange, forwarding the cost information from the CDR generating function to the cost communication function of the exchange and communicating the cost information from the cost communication function to the subscriber's data terminal prior to the establishment of the to-be-completed telephone call or during the on-going telephone call (see col. 2 line 52 – col. 4 line 7; col. 5 lines 21-35).

Consider claim 2, Krank et al teach the process for signaling cost information wherein the tariff server has access to a subscriber database containing current tariff data (*col. 5 lines 31-35*).

Consider claim 3, Krank et al teach the process for signaling cost information wherein the current costs are updated upon the connection establishment and/or during the existing telephone call (*col. 3 lines 32-44*).

Consider claim 4, Krank et al teach the process for signaling cost information wherein the information of the tariff server is updated with the aid of a bill server (*col. 5 lines 23-60; Fig. 3*).

Consider claim 5, Krank et al teach a tariff server with connections to an exchange and to a bill server (*see Fig. 3; col. 5 lines 47-60*), the tariff server having a charging rate function which is connected to a subscriber database, and in response to a tariff request that is received from the exchange for a to-be-completed telephone call or an on-going telephone call, the charging rate function generates a tariff response that is used to determine the cost information of the to-be-completed telephone call or the on-going telephone call (see col. 2 line 52 – col. 4 line 7; col. 5 lines 21-35).

Consider claim 6, Krank et al teach a tariff server wherein the subscriber database is adapted to the current cost situation by current data of the bill server (*see col. 3 lines 32-44*).

Consider claim 7, Krank et al teach an exchange for signaling cost information in a telecommunications network, wherein the exchange comprises: a call handling function that forwards a tariff request to a tariff server coupled to the exchange, wherein the call handling function receives the tariff response that is returned from the tariff server in response to the tariff request, a CDR generating function that receives the tariff response from the call handling function and generates cost information from the tariff response, and a cost communication function that communicates the cost information from the cost communication function to a subscriber's data terminal (*see col. 2 line 52 – col. 4 line 7; col. 5 lines 21-35*).

Consider claim 8, Krank et al teach the exchange wherein the CDR generating function updates the cost information upon establishment of a to-be-completed telephone call (*col. 3 lines 32-44*).

Consider claim 9, Krank et al teach the exchange wherein the CDR generating function updates the cost information during the pendency of an on-going telephone call (*col. 3 lines 32-44*).

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-9 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

6. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Facsimile responses should be faxed to:
(703) 872-9306

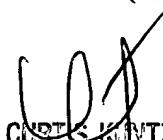
Hand-delivered responses should be brought to:
Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive
Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist)

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Quoc Tran** whose telephone number is **(703) 306-5643**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:00 to 6:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Curtis Kuntz**, can be reached on **(703) 305-4708**.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the **Technology Center 2600** whose telephone number is **(703) 306-0377**.

Quoc D. Tran
Patent Examiner AU 2643
November 24, 2003


CURTIS KUNTZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600